[*Note.*—An asterisk * at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR IN *RE* THE ALLOTMENT OF DAYS FOR NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

11-45 a.m. * The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to communicate to the House the Message from His Excellency the Governor, dated 19th October 1927, which is as follows :

' In response to the address presented at the meeting of the Madras Legislative Council on the 23rd August, endeavour will be made to allot a greater number of days than heretofore for the transaction of non-official business, but I desire to point out to the hon. Members of the Council that whether this will be practicable will depend upon the progress made in the disposal of official business which must be given precedence.'

Amendments to Standing Orders Nos. 19, 26, 39 *and* 49.[a]

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The next item is Amendments to Standing Orders, notice of which was given by Mr. J. A. Saldanha. The hon. Member not being in his place, they shall be deemed to have been withdrawn."

III

MOTIONS ON MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC INTEREST.

TOTAL PROHIBITION IN FIVE YEARS.

* Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg leave to move this resolution namely,—

' *This Council recommends to the Government that total prohibition of drink in the Madras Presidency within the course of five years be declared to be their goal and that they do select immediately five districts in the Presidency and take all necessary measures to stop all importation, manufacture, sale and drink of all intoxicating liquors within the districts so selected.*'

" Sir, this resolution apparently is one of far-reaching importance both from the point of view of the people as well as from the point of view of the Government. No doubt, at the outset, I may expect sympathy from all hands so far as the question of prohibition is concerned. That sympathy can be easily shown to me even in a manner which cannot be easily acted upon or depended upon by the people. The sympathy of the Government has been exhibited from the beginning when they first of all took interest in the matter of prohibiting the drink itself. The drink problem came into the hands of the Government so early as 1852, when they thought that they should somehow or other have a control over the people who resort to this evil practice, and so they began to legislate upon this question. As they began to legislate, they thought that legislation must take the form of getting some sort of revenue. The only excuse they put forward for getting a revenue out of this evil was that it would deter the persons who resort to this evil practice. But practically they have very freely taken advantage of it. On the other hand, I shall be able to convince this House that the evil has increased, and we see to-day that there are numberless votaries to this evil on account of the policy that has been pursued all along by the Government itself. The apparent declaration of the Government is that they want to put down drink. On the other hand, they have been, by their own acts and by the rules that have been framed under the Excise Act, directly, I should say, encouraging drink, instead of putting down the evil altogether. It is only due entirely to the feeling that somehow or other the revenue ought

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[a] An item adjourned from the list of Business for 20th October 1927.